

**REMARKS**

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-35 were pending, claims 1-20 and 32-35 were withdrawn from consideration as relating to non-elected inventions, and claims 26, 28 and 29 were withdrawn by the examiner as not readable on the elected species.

By this amendment, applicants have canceled withdrawn claims 1-20, 26, 28, 29 and 32-35. Accordingly, claims 21-25, 27, 30 and 31 are currently pending.

In the final Office Action dated July 2, 2003, the examiner maintained rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hutchinson (*Rev. in Immunogenetics*, 1:323-333, 1999), obvious over Ader (*Curr. Opin. Nephrol. Hypertens.*, 7:539-545, 1998), and obvious over Novak (*Nature Medicine*, 5(4):382, 1999, April) in view of Ohmori (*Experimental Cell Research*, 245:350:359, 1998). The examiner stated that the Rule 131 declaration of Dr. Suthanthiran filed with the amendment dated March 18, 2003 was insufficient to establish that the invention was made before the publication date of the Hutchinson and Novak references because only one of the inventors signed the declaration.

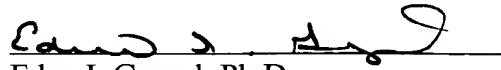
In response, applicants submit herewith a new Rule 131 declaration signed by the inventors Dr. Suthanthiran (attached as Exhibit 1) and Dr. Hojo (attached as Exhibit 2). The attached Rule 131 declaration is now sufficient to overcome the publication date of the Hutchinson and Novak references since the declaration is singed by all of the inventors. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

For the above reasons, reconsideration of the rejections of the final Office Action is respectfully requested. Allowance of pending claims 21-25, 27, 30 and 31 is earnestly

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requested. If the examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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